



# News Release

## WISCONSIN ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Army Guard public affairs soldiers from Madison expected back from Iraq Tuesday

Nearly 12 months after they shipped out to Southwest Asia, six Wisconsin Army National Guard soldiers from Madison-based Detachment 1, 139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment are expected back in Wisconsin Tuesday morning [Jan. 18]. The unit is headquartered in Springfield, Ill., with another 14 soldiers who are members of the Illinois National Guard.

The unit was mobilized Dec. 7, 2003, and deployed to Iraq in early February 2004 following six weeks of mobilization processing and training at Fort McCoy.

The unit is expected to arrive at the La Crosse airport at about 10:30 a.m. Tuesday. Soldiers will be met by their families, senior National Guard officials and a military band. Following a brief reunion with their families, the soldiers will travel to Fort McCoy to begin several days of demobilization processing.

During their tour of active duty the 139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment was stationed in Mosul, where the unit supported Operation Iraqi Freedom and coalition forces in northern Iraq.

"Although this is the smallest of the Wisconsin Army Guard units that have been deployed in Iraq, the 139th's soldiers served in a particularly dangerous part of the country for nearly a year and we're looking forward to welcoming them home," said Brig. Gen. Kerry Denson, deputy adjutant general and commander of the Wisconsin Army National Guard.

This is the first return of Wisconsin Army Guard troops since 160 soldiers of the 32nd Military Police Company got home last July. About 300 Wisconsin Air National Guard members from Madison have returned during the past several weeks following shorter rotational deployments to Iraq and Qatar.

Following the public affairs unit's return, the Wisconsin Guard will still have more than 1,700 soldiers and airmen on active duty. Of those, approximately 1,390 are currently deployed overseas.

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Current news releases are available at: <http://dma.wi.gov/news.asp>

**Note to Editors and News Directors:** News media are welcome to cover the return of the 139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment to the La Crosse airport Tuesday morning. The unit's flight is expected to arrive at the airport aboard a commercial flight at about 10:30 a.m.

Following the aircraft's arrival, soldiers and their families will have about an hour together before the soldiers are bused to Fort McCoy to begin demobilization processing.